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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 27 | Min 20 | Humidity 70% Scattered Thunderstorms Sensex 81,711 | Nifty 25,017 | Gold 71,998 | Silver 85,635 | Dollar 83.92 | Euro 93.72 | GBP 111.06

KIDS ARE ALRIGHT

Parents beware as police opting to invoke Juvenile Justice Act if children involved in traffic violations in city

PAGE 2

POWER OF WATER

40 waterbodies identified where solar panels will be installed to generate renewable energy

PAGE 4

Ill-conceived Gandhi Bazaar Main Road renovation has left traders staring at losses as reduced road width, lack of parking space and encroached footpaths keep customers away

RENOVATION OR RUINATION?

No dedicated space for street vendors in space beautified by BBMP, DULT

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KAUSHIK JN

Festival season is supposed to be a godsend for traders and retailers. However, shopkeepers at Gandhi Bazaar Main Road say they are bearing the brunt of the ill-conceived project by Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and the Directorate of Urban Land Transport.

While the renovation of Gandhi Bazaar Main Road, a project started nearly two years ago, is yet to be completed, traders say they are facing an unprecedented business loss. Yet again, business has not taken off despite the festive season just around the corner.

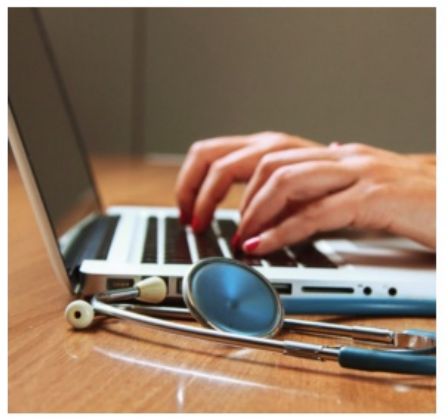
"Ganesha festival is just a few days away, but sales have not picked up. All businesses on the stretch are severely hit; nearly 80% down compared to before BBMP kick-started the project. The project was badly timed. They started it while we were still recovering from losses incurred during the pandemic," said L Gundu Rao, president of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

> **"The market area, which should have housed vendors, has been made into a complex. There is no space for street vendors in the market and thus they have occupied the pedestrian walkway. At some spots, the walk path is completely encroached** — Resident of area

MLCs under the weather

Over Rs 1 crore claimed towards medical bills from May 2023 till now



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It seems a majority of the MLCs are not in good health if the money they claimed in 15 months towards health expenses is anything to go by. The honourable MLCs have claimed a whopping amount of Rs 1,52,92,542 towards medical bills. Some of the honourable MLCs were even hospitalised more than two times between May 1, 2023 and August 2024.

The shocking news is that only a few MLCs have availed of treatment for cardiac problems at Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research and there are no details about the hospitals where the remaining MLCs were admitted for treatment. Among the MLCs, Bharathi Shetty has claimed Rs 48,01,724 for hospitalisation four times (Rs 13,16,076, Rs 14,07,676, Rs 13,35,429, and Rs 7,42,543). Shetty is in first place among the MLCs who claimed money towards the medical bills. CP Yogeshwar is in the second spot by claiming Rs 39,64,114 in 15 months.

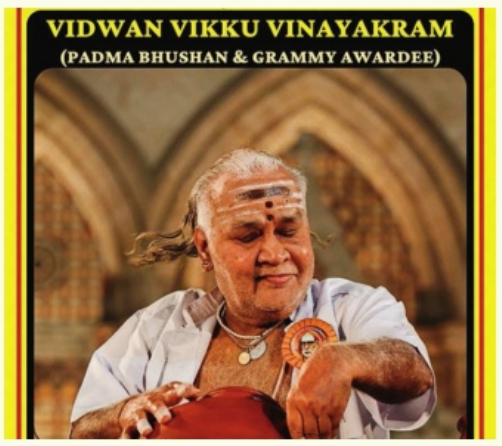
When contacted, MLC Shetty said that it is her privilege to claim money towards medical bills. "I do not know why the media is making it a big issue. The media is silent when software engineers or

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Think on

Watch 'Ondu Vilaya Kathe,' a story of liberation, death, rebirth, duality of mind, difficulty, and repentance. The play has a plot that explores the current state of mind and ponders how timeless truths are still relevant today. The truth is the same, but the ways of telling it have changed. The tone of discourse has changed. It is a story of rhythmic inertia and sprouting a new shoot from an old root. **Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar When: August 28, 7:30 pm**



02 Musical evening

SPICMACAY and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) present a program by Padma Bhushan and Grammy Awardee Vidwan Vikku Vinayakram. He will be accompanied by Selvangesh Vinayakram on Kanjira, Umashankar Vinayakram on Ghatam, Ramakrishna N on Mridangam, and A Ganesan on Morsing. **Where: JN Tata Auditorium, IISc, Malleshwaram; When: August 29, 6 pm**

03 Odissi fest

Experience this enchanting evening of Odissi dance with Nrityantar's annual flagship Odissi dance festival, 'Naman', meaning salutation pays. Watch captivating performances by the Nrityantar Dance Ensemble; the internationally acclaimed Sutra Dance Theatre from Malaysia, led by the legendary Ramli Ibrahim and Bengaluru-based Odissi Dance Centre, under the direction of Devjani Sen. The fest is a tribute to the great gurus who have contributed immensely to the growth & popularisation of Odissi dance. **Where: ADA Rangamandira, JC Road; When: September 1, 5 pm**

Kids funzone

Children had unlimited fun at House of Little Monkeys event held at Jayamahal Palace on August 24, 25

'Anywhere registration' to be implemented statewide

Preparations underway to implement seamless property registrations in state; citizens can choose any sub-registrar office within their district's jurisdiction

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'The 'Anywhere Registration' system will be progressively implemented throughout the state. This initiative will benefit the public by saving time and money, minimising unnecessary delays, and evenly distributing the workload among sub-registrar offices'

Karnataka will be implementing the new 'Anywhere Registration' system across all sub-registrar offices on September 2. Of the 257 sub-registrar offices across the state, residents will now be able to choose any office within their district's jurisdiction for property registration at their convenience.

This concept, originally introduced in Bengaluru in 2011, permitted property registrations at any sub-registrar office within the Gandhinagar, Basavanagudi, Jayanagar, Shivajinagar, and Rajajinagar district registration offices. The system has proven effective in these areas. Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda has now instructed the Registration and Stamps Department to extend this efficient 'Anywhere Registration' system statewide.

Pilot implementation in Belagavi and Tumakuru

Given the variations in document types, registration numbers, property types, and values across districts, Belagavi and Tumakuru—districts with a higher number of sub-registrar offices—were selected for a pilot phase. This phase, conducted over two months, confirmed the system's success with no major issues. Following a third phase of evaluation, preparations are underway to roll out the system across all registration districts in the state.

Benefits of new system

Under the current system, property registration must occur within the jurisdiction of the specific sub-registrar office. Any non-cooperation, objections, or delays from the concerned office can lead to further delays. The 'Anywhere Registration' system will provide the public with multiple office options, thereby reducing dependence on any single office. "The 'Anywhere Registration' system, beginning in September, will be progressively implemented throughout the state. This initiative will benefit the public by saving time and money, minimising unnecessary delays, and evenly distributing the workload among sub-registrar offices," Gowda added.

As a property buyer who has often found the registration process cumbersome and time-consuming, the introduction of the 'Anywhere Registration' system is a welcome change, says Madhappa K, a property dealer. "Previously, being bound to a specific sub-registrar office meant having to navigate through traffic and face long queues, all while dealing with unpredictable delays if the office staff was uncooperative or if there were any administrative issues. This new system will significantly simplify the process, allowing us to register our properties at any nearby or convenient office within our district."

Furthermore, he said that the flexibility to choose an office that suits one's schedule will not only save time but also reduce the stress and inconvenience associated with property registration. "Additionally, by distributing the workload across multiple offices, it will help avoid congestion and ensure that all offices are utilised more effectively. Overall, the 'Anywhere Registration' system will make the property registration process more accessible and less burdensome, providing a much-needed improvement for property buyers like myself who value efficiency and convenience," Madhappa added.

Father's financial obligation includes school fees, maintenance: High Court

The Karnataka High Court has ruled that a father's payment of school fees for his child does not exempt him from paying maintenance if the child lives separately with the mother. Justice M Nagaprasanna, on a single-judge bench, dismissed a petition from a husband challenging a trial court's order requiring him to pay interim maintenance of Rs 5,000 each to his wife and child.

The husband argued that he earns Rs 30,000 per month as an assistant professor at a private educational institution and that paying this sum would be burdensome. He also claimed that since he has been paying the child's entire school fee since 2022 and his wife is employed, there is no need for her to seek maintenance. The wife countered the plea by stating that she quit her job at the insistence of the petitioner after the birth of their child. She also argued that the ordered amount is not so exorbitant that the petitioner cannot pay.

Taking the wife's statement into account, the bench stated, "It is the duty of the husband to maintain the wife and the child and not to wash off his hands from the responsibility of maintenance." It further clarified, "Payment of the fees does not absolve the husband of his responsibility to provide maintenance for the child."

Observing that the husband is currently in arrears of Rs 3,70,000, it concluded, "On all these factors entertaining a petition of the petitioner who is in gross default in payment of maintenance, does not arise." **-BMB**

Steer clear of trouble: Juvenile justice is on road to reform

Cops are enforcing Juvenile Justice Act more rigorously in Bengaluru; 4 cases booked under Act in last 2 months

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PIC FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY

The city is observing a concerning trend where minors are increasingly found violating traffic laws, leading to legal consequences for their parents as well. Highlighting the importance of invoking the Juvenile Justice Act in these cases, Deputy Commissioner Police (DCP) Traffic East Kuldeep Kumar Jain said, "We have seen cases where minor children, even school kids, are driving two-wheelers. In light of incidents in Mumbai and Pune, we have begun to enforce the Juvenile Justice Act (JJ Act) more rigorously in the city."

Recently, the KR Puram Traffic Police have filed an FIR (first investigation report) under the JJ Act in a case involving a minor caught riding a Honda Activa with three friends. The police have also taken legal action against both the scooter's owner and the minor's parents. In a separate case, the Yelahanka Police charged an 18-year-old under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act for performing dangerous stunts while under the influence of ganja.

"Minors who engage in bike stunts or ride triples, violating traffic rules, are being dealt with seriously. We hold parents responsible for providing them with vehicles

To address the rising number of such incidents, Bengaluru Traffic Police are now enforcing stricter measures to curb violations and ensure greater adherence to traffic laws.

4 cases in last 2 months

The DCP further stressed how negligence on the part of parents also needs to be addressed more effectively. "So far, we have booked four cases under the JJ Act in the last month and a half, with three of them related to bike stunts. Despite awareness campaigns and press notes, these cases continue rising in the city, and hence the need to prosecute some of these cases in order to curb this issue is needed," he explained.

The increased focus on the JJ Act follows similar incidents in Mumbai and Pune, where minors involved in dangerous stunts and traffic violations prompted stricter enforcement of laws to hold parents and guardians accountable.

In a recent instance in Mumbai city, the city police booked a 16-year-old boy who was caught performing dangerous stunts on a motorcycle in a residential area under the JJ Act. Additionally, the boy's father, who owned the motorcycle, was held accountable for negligence and was also booked under relevant sections.

Strict measures in place

With rising cases in Bengaluru, the traffic police are now emphasising the need for preventive measures, alongside strict enforcement, to address the issue more comprehensively. "Minors who engage in bike stunts or ride triples, violating traffic rules, are being dealt with seriously. We hold the parents responsible for providing them with the vehicles. Once we find that a minor is involved in such activities, we book the parents under the JJ Act. If the minor is found under the influence of drugs, they are also booked under the NDPS Act, and the law enforcement authorities take over from there," said Siri Gowri, DCP Traffic North.

Darshan to be sent to Bellary Central jail

The 24th Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) court on Tuesday ordered to shift jailed Kannada superstar Darshan from the Bengaluru Central Prison to Bellary Central jail.The submission was made to the court by the Chief Superintendent in the wake of a viral photograph of Darshan emerging on social media on Sunday, triggering a row.

His partner and prime accused in the Renukaswamy murder case, Pavithra Gowda will remain in the Bengaluru Central Prison.The other associates in the case, Pavan, Raghavendra, and Nandeesh, will be shifted to Mysuru prison; Jagadish and Laxmana will be sent to Shivamogga jail; Dhanraj to Dharwad jail; Vinay to Vijayapura jail; Nagaraj to Kalaburagi jail; Pradoosh to Belagavi jail; Anukumar and Deepak will remain in the Bengaluru Central Prison. Four accused, Ravi, Karthik, Nikhil, and Keshava Murthy were shifted to Tumakuru prison earlier.

Meanwhile, Pavithra Gowda has pleaded the court to grant bail, considering that she is a woman. The City Civil and Sessions Court in Bengaluru heard Gowda's bail application on Tuesday and has adjourned the matter to August 28 (Wednesday).

Call for comprehensive reports on all state prisons

The state government has called for a comprehensive report on the management of all state prisons following recent revelations of 'preferential treatment' given to Darshan in Bengaluru Central Prison.

Home Minister G Parameshwara announced that the inquiry will extend beyond the incident at Parappana Agrahara involving Darshan. The review will cover the management practices in prisons across the state. He mentioned that a committee, led by an IPS officer, would be formed to submit a detailed report. During a recent visit to Hindalga Jail in Belagavi, several irregularities were identified, prompting corrective actions. Similar reviews are planned for prisons in Shivamogga, Mangaluru, and other locations.An incident involving rowdy-sheeter Wilson Naga, who was caught on CCTV moving between barracks without authorisation, has also led to further scrutiny. **-Agencies**

Lakes to turn into green energy hubs

State plans to install solar panels on 40 reservoirs to boost renewable energy, enhance sustainability, promote conservation and support irrigation projects

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Current reservoirs are expected to generate over 2,000 megawatts of electricity, with expansion potentially boosting the total to over 5,000 megawatts

Lakes, once essential for irrigation, are now poised to become key power sources. The Small Irrigation Department has identified 40 reservoirs for a new project that will install solar panels to generate renewable energy. This initiative, part of the state's budget plan, aims to increase renewable energy production and ensure a reliable electricity supply for irrigation projects by equipping reservoirs, large lakes, and other water bodies with solar panels.

The Water Resources Department, the Small Irrigation Department, and the State Renewable Energy Development Agency (KREDL) are working together to develop the project's framework. These departments have held an initial round of meetings and will soon convene another round. Before finalising the plans, they need to identify additional suitable water sources for solar panel installation. Currently, 40 reservoirs under the Small Irrigation Department have been selected for this purpose.

Among the 3,683 reservoirs managed by the Small Irrigation Department across the state, 40 have been identified as having an area exceeding 200 acres and retaining 50-60% of their water capacity year-round. These reservoirs are primarily replenished through irrigation schemes, ensuring they remain filled throughout the year. The focus is now on completing the identification process for additional reservoirs in five districts.

An official said, "The ongoing process aims to identify further locations for solar panel installation in other districts. The current reservoirs alone are expected to generate over 2,000 megawatts of electricity. Additionally, by expanding the installation to other water sources, including larger reservoirs, the total electricity generation could potentially exceed 5,000 megawatts. A preliminary meeting has already been conducted to discuss the renewable energy project. Another round of meetings is planned to finalise the project's blueprint. In Bengaluru, specific reservoirs have been selected for the installation of solar power panels, including Bagalur, Singanayakanahalli, Jigani Doddakere, and Muttanallur Amanikere lakes."

> **"By transforming our water bodies into power sources, we harness nature's potential to meet our energy needs**
>
> – Indu D, Lake activist

Indu D, a lake activist said, "Embracing renewable energy through innovative initiatives like installing solar panels on reservoirs is not just a step toward sustainability; it's a leap toward a brighter, cleaner future. By transforming our water bodies into power sources, we harness nature's potential to meet our energy needs while protecting the environment. This initiative symbolises our commitment to blending advanced technology with nature's invaluable resources, paving the way for a more resilient and self-sufficient energy landscape. Let's seize this opportunity to lead by example, demonstrating that progress and environmental preservation can go hand in hand."

Action ordered to speed up suburban rail construction

Monthly targets include 55 U-girders, 22 piers, and 42 I-girders with Rs 54 crore budget; current spending is just Rs 9 crore

Infrastructure Development Minister MB Patil reprimanded L&T officials on Tuesday for the slow progress of the Chikkabanavara-Baiyyappanahalli (Corridor-2) suburban rail project. During a progress review meeting of the Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project (BSRP) held at Khanija Bhavan, the minister expressed his dissatisfaction with the lack of expected progress. "We have promised the public that the first train operation will start by August 2025. However, given the current pace of work, this seems doubtful," the minister remarked.

He noted that only 28 per cent of the physical progress and 22 per cent of the financial progress have been achieved so far. "At this rate, it is impossible to complete the project within the stipulated time," he added. The minister instructed K-Ride authorities to review the process on a weekly and monthly basis to ensure timely completion. He also directed officials to immediately expedite the delayed work.

According to the schedule, a minimum of 55 U-girders, 22 piers, and 42 I-girders should be constructed each month, with a required expenditure of Rs 54 crore. However, current spending stands at only Rs 9 crore, which is significantly below the required amount, he stated with dissatisfaction. The minister noted that only Rs 86 crore in financial progress has been achieved so far, whereas it should have reached Rs 459 crore. He cautioned that if the situation does not improve, strict action will be taken against the contractor firm, and any losses due to delays will be recovered from the contractors.

He also stressed the need to speed up the Hilalagi-Rajanukunte (Corridor-4) project, for which L&T is also the contractor. To date, 65 per cent of the utility shifting work, including electricity connections and drainage pipes, has been completed. Additionally, a site has been identified for the girder construction yard, and bridge construction has begun. The minister urged that this work should be accelerated as well.

In the meeting, the Development Minister engaged in discussions with senior L&T officials and instructed K-Ride officials to expedite the work. He emphasised that the project completion deadline would not be extended under any circumstances and directed officials to work around the clock to meet the set timeframe. — BMB

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Upkeep needed

Nandini Layout

The park near the Nandini Milk Booth in Nandini Layout has beautiful animal statues that need maintenance. Additionally, other parks in the area also require upkeep.

Drain overflow

Thanisandra

The roadside drain opposite Haj Bhavan in Thanisandra is overflowing and needs immediate attention for clearance.

Trash pileup

Lingarajapuram

Garbage piles up regularly under the Lingarajapuram Flyover on VST Road, near India Gas and HP Gas, making it a major black spot.

1,000 days of injustice; ITI workers demand action

It has been 1,000 days since workers at Indian Telephone Industries (ITI) Limited, a major public sector undertaking (PSUs), began protesting their dismissal without notice. The workers, who were involved in producing telecommunication equipment for India's defence forces, claim they were terminated for attempting to unionise and for demanding unpaid wages during the lockdown period. Some of these workers have been with ITI for over two decades.

According to a fact-finding report, 28 workers from ITI had earlier moved to a labour court in August 2020 seeking compensation from the management for the period of the first lockdown. They had eventually received compensation but as 80 more workers joined the union, the management allegedly terminated their contracts without prior notice. "The management considered this as an affront and terminated them without any explanation. At present, 80 contract workers have been refused employment; many of them have been harassed and intimidated for unionising and trying to demand their rights," the report said.

The report carrying testimonies of the workers has also documented how the workers were paid based on their educational qualifications instead of their experience or skill in the field since the first lockdown.

Employees protest over unfair dismissals and unpaid wages, as court orders and ministerial promises remain unmet by management

"This is a form of coded discrimination since it is well known that many workers from lower class and caste backgrounds may not have had the same educational opportunities as elite classes and castes. As a result, several workers who were doing "highly skilled" jobs saw their wages fall significantly because they did not have the required educational qualifications. And yet, the nature of their jobs remained the same," the report said.

On 28 April 2022 Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister of Communication issued a letter that all the workers who had been removed by Management of ITI would be taken back to service in a phased manner. However to date, 1000 days after the illegal termination, the words of the Minister have not been adhered to and the management has not taken back the workers. The high court last year also passed an order directing the ITI management to take back 35 workers immediately and to do the same with the remaining 45 thereafter.

Avani Chokshi from the All Indian Central Council of Trade Unions (AICCTU) said, "A public sector establishment is meant to act as a model employer. Instead, workers who have worked for decades were thrown to the street simply. Today, the workers have been struggling for 1000 days." —BMB

Park battle: Public or sacred space?

Residents in Anglo Indian Quarters demand BBMP address structures encroaching on community park

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Despite repeated court orders directing the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to prevent structures or temples from being placed in parks intended for public use, the BBMP authorities, particularly the horticulture department, have not addressed the issue of statues, temples, and other structures. Elected representatives have also not taken action against park encroachments or misuse, possibly due to political priorities.

It is concerning to find that a public park in Anglo Indian Quarters, Austin Town, has been used for religious activities. A permanent structure was installed a few years ago to place a statue of St. Mary within the park. Recently, additional structures have been erected in front of the existing one, and these new structures are decorated with string lights powered by electricity drawn from a nearby pole.

"We are not happy with the public park being used for religious activities. We have complained to the BBMP Horticulture Department about the illegal construction inside the park. We urge the authorities concerned to remove the structure and restore the park for the public," said Vandana Williams, a resident. She noted that numerous vehicles, including auto-rickshaws, are parked in front of the main gate. "We have observed some individuals engaging in mischief in this area, which has become a nuisance for the residents of Anglo Indian Quarters," she said.

Locals allege that with parked vehicles around, a few people are causing mischief

Parked vehicles in front of the park

Residents are calling on the BBMP Horticulture Department to prevent the use of the park for religious activities. They allege that some individuals have restricted children's access by locking the park. They argue that the park, intended for children, is now inaccessible to them, depriving them of their freedom to play and enjoy their childhood. Furthermore, they note that all the playground equipment was removed some time ago, and the space is now occupied by a large concrete grotto housing a religious statue. "This park is always used for community welfare celebrations by those few residents along with their extended families from all over the city. They organise their own fundraising religious and community programmes inside this park regularly every year. At these programs, they have food stalls, games, alcohol with loud jarring music resulting in disturbance and pollution of the whole park with broken liquor bottles, food remains, disposable plates and tumblers strewed all over the place," said a resident.

Expressing concern about the park being locked, resident Kesar Singh urges BBMP authorities to reopen it to the public.

"We are not happy with the public park being used for religious activities. We have complained to BBMP
–Vandana W, resident

Resident Tara Prakash notes that the park was once a playground. "It was a playground until some people installed a statue of St. Mary. It was meant for the residents of D&F Block in Anglo-Indian Quarters," Tara Prakash said.

The BBMP Horticulture Department has installed a board indicating the park's operating hours from 5 am to 8 pm The park was developed using Anglo-Indian MLA Grants and was inaugurated by Vinesha Nero, Anglo-Indian MLA (nominated), on May 22, 2016.

Meanwhile, BBMP Horticulture (East) Superintendent Vijayakumar said that he had already visited the park after receiving a complaint from the residents of Anglo Indian Quarters. "I will ensure the park is clean and neat. I will look into the residents' complaints on the structures," said Vijayakumar.

IN BRIEF

Wheelchair cricket league

The trophy for Karnataka Wheelchair Premier League Season 3 was unveiled by Malleswaram MLA Dr CN Ashwath Narayan at an event held at the Gokulam Grand Hotel in the city. Sandalwood actor Vijay Raghavendra also attended the event.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Ashwath Narayan praised the tagline, 'Overcome Hurdles & Make Champions'. He stated, "I believe the Karnataka Wheelchair Premier League Season 3 will empower participants to become champions in their lives."

At the event, actor Vijay Raghavendra announced his intention to attend the cricket tournament. "Let us all join hands to make this event a big success," he said.

Shiva Prasad of Divyaang Myithri Sports Academy stated "The purpose is to provide individuals with different abilities the encouragment and opportunity to play sports."

State's five guarantees

In a meeting with Suman Bery, Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said, "On the 5 Guarantees we are spending over 52,000 crore a year. This is perhaps the largest income support initiative by any state government."

Siddaramaiah stated, "In line with our vision for equitable growth, we have launched a very ambitious inclusion agenda by providing direct income support to over 12 million families through direct benefit transfer. We call this agenda "Five Guarantees."

Gruha Lakshmi provides monthly cash support. Gruha Jyothi offers free domestic power. Anna Bhagya provides 10 kg of grain per person per month. Shakti offers free bus travel for all women residents. Yuva Nidhi provides monthly stipends.

For the Chief Minister

Police detained members of various community organisations and supporters who were protesting against Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot for ordering prosecution of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at Freedom Park

PIC: KAUSHIK JN

Finally, safety protocols for medical staff in Bengaluru

Massive outcry and protests for change and safety starting to see results

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Following the recent tragic incident in Kolkata involving the murder and rape of a doctor, which sparked demands for justice and increased safety measures from doctors nationwide, including in Bengaluru, the resident doctors of Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI), along with other medical colleges and doctors, called for action to ensure the safety of medical professionals. In response, the Minister for Medical Education, Dr Sharan Prakash Patil, visited BMCRI to address concerns about the safety of female doctors.

He held a meeting with senior residents, postgraduate students, interns, and undergraduate students of BMCRI, as well as representatives from medical colleges and institutions across Bengaluru. The discussion took place in the presence of deans, directors of these institutions, medical superintendents, and special officers from affiliated hospitals.

During the meeting, it was emphasised that certain measures need to be implemented in the hospitals affiliated with BMCRI. These include installing CCTV cameras in strategic locations, ensuring adequate lighting in all blocks and corridors, and placing alarm systems or mobile devices in key areas. Additionally, it was recommended that doctors carry pepper spray at all times. The 112 helpline should be coordinated with the local police for quick response. Self-defence training is to be provided to students, and a mentorship program for postgraduates should be initiated and conducted regularly. Periodic meetings should be held to address and discuss ongoing safety concerns.

Additionally, it was emphasised that army security should be stationed near the casualty ward. Duty rooms should be established in MBC, ICU, and C Block. The "One Pass" policy for police presence should be enforced, allowing only one attendant per patient. QR code scanning should be implemented by security personnel, and ID cards with alarms should be issued to postgraduate students. Washrooms should be made available on every floor, and a 24-hour canteen facility should be provided. A fine of Rs 50,000 to be levied for security lapse. Separate duty rooms for men and women. Alcohol check to be done by security personnel. Employee safety committee to be constituted.

Dr Ramesh Krishna K, Dean and Director BMCRI said, " BMCRI also has a POSH Committee headed by Kaikashan, Chief Administrative Officer of BMCRI. They too had a meeting & have come out with many proposals regarding safe working environment for female doctors in BMCRI & Victoria Hospital campus. In addition, we would like to inform that some of the following measures are already in place & some of them are being initiated." Posters will be displayed on hospital campuses that sexual harassment of women in work places is a punishable offence.

Nationwide outcry from 35 plus organisations demanding justice for crimes against women

As frustration and anger grow over the state's failure to protect women and girls, a large section of population has unified, with more than 35 organisations and over 900 individuals joining hands to demand urgent, independent, and unbiased investigations into the Kolkata rape and murder case and all other similar cases across India.

The coalition, comprising human rights organisations, women's rights groups, legal experts, and concerned citizens, has issued a powerful statement condemning the repeated failures of the criminal justice system in addressing gender-based violence.

They emphasise that the Kolkata rape and murder case is just one of many incidents in a troubling trend of violence against women across the country. "The statement initiated by 35 organisations and endorsed by almost 900 individuals and organisations is to investigate all cases of rape and to challenge institutional and political accountability," said Madhu Bhushan, Feminist and Women's Right activist from Gamana Women's collective. "Every incident, especially when the perpetrator is powerful, needs to be taken seriously. We must hold those in power accountable and address how rape is being used as a weapon against vulnerable and marginalised communities. These are the larger questions we need to raise, coming from those who have been working on the ground for years," she said adding that the death penalty will only eliminate the criminal, not the crime.

This union highlights serious concerns about how often sexual violence cases are poorly handled by law enforcement, citing issues like delayed forensic tests, weak evidence gathering, and a lack of sensitivity towards victims.

BM Education

BCU does audit of trees

The Bengaluru City University (BCU) area, known for its historical significance, is a repository of unique trees and plants. The university is now planting new trees and installing extensive informational boards. In addition to this, new benches are being installed, and lawns are being developed. Trees from different states and countries are being brought in and planted, while efforts to revive old trees and plants are in full swing. Sewage Treatment Plants (STP) are being installed to ensure sustainability. The university has also constructed 30 rainwater recharge pits to contribute to the city's groundwater replenishment.

An audit of the trees has been conducted, revealing 100-year-old palm trees and a 150-year-old banyan tree within the university premises. Efforts are being made, with the help of various organisations, to ensure these trees continue to thrive for many more years. The new Environmental and Climate Change Division has already started the process of naming several trees and plants. Overall, there is a strong focus on greening and rainwater harvesting. "At the time when the Bangalore University and the Central University separated, there were no proper drainage systems or road facilities. There were no STP plants either. However, now, all forms of water recycling systems have been implemented, and solar systems have also been introduced. With the help of some experts, extensive greening has been achieved within just six months. Even during droughts, a sprinkler system has been brought in to ensure that the plants and trees receive water," said Professor Lingaraj Gandhi, Vice-Chancellor of BCU.

SWAYAM Platform

University Grants Commission has introduced a new framework that allows universities to conduct examinations for SWAYAM courses. This move follows a series of state-level awareness meetings held between October-November 2023 and April-May 2024, as well as online discussions with Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) led by the UGC Chairman and Joint Secretary from the Ministry of Education. These meetings highlighted the growing interest among universities in adopting SWAYAM courses for credit transfer.

The new framework now gives students who have completed courses on SWAYAM the option to take their exams at their own universities. It also includes provisions for re-examinations, enabling students who did not pass or were unable to appear for SWAYAM exams to retake them in subsequent semesters. This will facilitate a smoother integration of online learning with traditional academic programs.

Students can register for SWAYAM courses through their universities, complete course activities, and take exams conducted by their university, in addition to the existing exam facilities provided by NTA and NPTEL. The credits earned from these courses can then be transferred to the students' transcripts. UGC is encouraging all HEIs to adopt SWAYAM courses and utilise the new examination framework to improve learner-friendliness.

For institutions, this new framework builds upon the UGC's previously announced Credit Framework for Online Learning Courses through the Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM) Regulations, 2021. These regulations govern the adoption of SWAYAM courses, including the accumulation and transfer of credits. — BMB

HEALTH TIP: Always eat within a few hours of waking though you don't have to have a lot if not hungry

Eucalyptus, rosemary, lavender, lemon, peppermint and tea tree oils are effective to treat nasal congestion

BangaloreMirror | 7
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What is type 1.5 diabetes?

It's a bit like type 1 and type 2 – but it's often misdiagnosed

While you're likely familiar with type 1 and type 2 diabetes, you've probably heard less about type 1.5 diabetes.

Also known as latent autoimmune diabetes in adults (LADA), type 1.5 diabetes has features of both type 1 and type 2 diabetes. More people became aware of this condition after Lance Bass, best known for his role in the iconic American pop band NSYNC, recently revealed he has it.

So, what is type 1.5 diabetes? And how is it diagnosed and treated?

There are several types of diabetes

Diabetes mellitus is a group of conditions that arise when the levels of glucose (sugar) in our blood are higher than normal. There are actually more than ten types of diabetes, but the most common are type 1 and type 2.

Type 1 diabetes is an autoimmune condition where the body's immune system attacks and destroys the cells in the pancreas that make the hormone insulin. This leads to very little or no insulin production.

Insulin is important for moving glucose from the blood into our cells to be used for energy, which is why people with type 1 diabetes need insulin medication daily. Type 1 diabetes usually appears in children or young adults.

Type 2 diabetes is not an autoimmune condition. Rather, it happens when the body's cells become resistant to insulin over time, and the pancreas is no longer able to make enough insulin to overcome this resistance. Unlike type 1 diabetes, people with type 2 diabetes still produce some insulin.

Type 2 is more common in adults but is increasingly seen in children and young people. Management can include behavioural changes such as nutrition and physical activity, as well as oral medications and insulin therapy.

How does type 1.5 diabetes differ from types 1 and 2?

Like type 1 diabetes, type 1.5 occurs when the immune system attacks the pancreas cells that make insulin. But people with type 1.5 often don't need insulin immediately because their condition develops more slowly. Most people with type 1.5 diabetes will need to use insulin within five years of diagnosis, while those with type 1 typically require it from diagnosis.

Type 1.5 diabetes is usually diagnosed in people over 30, likely due to the slow progressing nature of the condition. This is older than the typical age for type 1 diabetes but younger than the usual diagnosis age for type 2.

Type 1.5 diabetes shares genetic and autoimmune risk factors with type 1 diabetes such as specific gene variants. However, evidence has also shown it may be influenced by lifestyle factors such as obesity and physical inactivity which are more commonly associated with type 2 diabetes.

What are the symptoms, and how is it treated?

The symptoms of type 1.5 diabetes are highly variable between people. Some have no symptoms at all. But generally, people may experience the following symptoms:

- increased thirst
- frequent urination
- fatigue
- blurred vision
- unintentional weight loss.

Typically, type 1.5 diabetes is initially treated with oral medications to keep blood glucose levels in normal range. Depending on their glucose control and the medication they are using, people with type 1.5 diabetes may need to monitor their blood glucose levels regularly throughout the day.

When average blood glucose levels increase beyond normal range even with oral medications, treatment may progress to insulin. However, there are no universally accepted management or treatment strategies for type 1.5 diabetes.

Type 1.5 diabetes is often misdiagnosed

Lance Bass said he was initially diagnosed with type 2 diabetes, but later learned he actually has type 1.5 diabetes. This is not entirely uncommon. Estimates suggest type 1.5 diabetes is misdiagnosed as type 2 diabetes 5–10% of the time.

There are a few possible reasons for this.

First, accurately diagnosing type 1.5 diabetes, and distinguishing it from other types of diabetes, requires special antibody tests (a type of blood test) to detect autoimmune markers. Not all healthcare professionals necessarily order these tests routinely, either due to cost concerns or because they may not consider them.

Second, type 1.5 diabetes is commonly found in adults, so doctors might wrongly assume a person has developed type 2 diabetes, which is more common in this age group (whereas type 1 diabetes usually affects children and young adults).

Third, people with type 1.5 diabetes often initially make enough insulin in the body to manage their blood glucose levels without needing to start insulin medication. This can make their condition appear like type 2 diabetes, where people also produce some insulin.

Finally, because type 1.5 diabetes has symptoms that are similar to type 2 diabetes, it may initially be treated as type 2.

We're still learning about type 1.5

Compared with type 1 and type 2 diabetes, there has been much less research on how common type 1.5 diabetes is, especially in non-European populations. In 2023, it was estimated type 1.5 diabetes represented 8.9% of all diabetes cases, which is similar to type 1. However, we need more research to get accurate numbers.

Overall, there has been a limited awareness of type 1.5 diabetes and unclear diagnostic criteria which have slowed down our understanding of this condition.

A misdiagnosis can be stressful and confusing. For people with type 1.5 diabetes, being misdiagnosed with type 2 diabetes might mean they don't get the insulin they need in a timely manner. This can lead to worsening health and a greater likelihood of complications down the road.

Getting the right diagnosis helps people receive the most appropriate treatment, save money, and reduce diabetes distress. If you're experiencing symptoms you think may indicate diabetes, or feel unsure about a diagnosis you've already received, monitor your symptoms and chat with your doctor.

(By Emily Burch, Southern Cross University and Lauren Ball, The University of Queensland, The Conversation)

All you need to know about...

Menopause & heart health

CVD
Women going through the menopause transition period are likely to experience changes that can be detrimental to their cardiovascular health, according to research on Tuesday.

Not a man's disease
Despite the myth that cardiovascular disease (CVD) is a "man's disease," it accounts for 40 per cent of all deaths in women, making it the leading cause of mortality for women.
Although women typically get CVD 10 years later than males, they are more at risk for developing heart disease following menopause.

Spike in LDL
"There is an increase in 'bad' low-density type lipoprotein (LDL) particles and a decrease in 'good' high-density lipoprotein particles (HDL) that takes place during and after the menopause transition," said study author Dr Stephanie Moreno, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, US. "Taken together, these changes suggest that menopause is associated with a transition to a higher-risk lipoprotein profile that could be more likely to cause cardiovascular disease, such as coronary artery disease," she added.
The study analysed changes in lipoprotein particles during the menopause transition in 1,246 participants.
They measured common lipoproteins associated with CVD, including atherogenic LDL-P and small dense LDL.

Adverse changes
"We found that menopause is associated with adverse changes in lipoprotein profiles, with the most pronounced changes found to be in increases in 'bad' LDL-particles and subfractions observed for peri-menopausal women," Moreno said. The findings may help explain the rise of heart disease in post-menopausal women and help determine if earlier interventions are warranted, said the team calling for more studies. —IANS

'All businesses on Gandhi Bazaar stretch hit hard'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Gandhi Bazaar Traders' Association. Traders say while the beautification of the road is still going on at a snail's pace, the stretch was opened to the public earlier this year. However, reduced road width, lack of parking space, and encroachment of footpath by street vendors have been dampeners.

"Our shops are hardly visible from the road. Every inch of the footpath has been encroached upon by hawkers who are selling similar items as our shop at a much lower rate. The situation has become grave," said another shopkeeper on the stretch.

KAUSHIK JN

No parking space

Businesses say the lack of parking space and public transport is adding to the woes.

"There have been instances when traffic police have fined my customers who parked their two-wheelers on the road as there is no space for parking. Those customers never returned. While there is a bus stand on the road, BMTC buses have stopped entering the stretch, further impacting the number of customers," added Rao.

Not just businesses, the encroached footpath by street vendors has left pedestrians and residents in the lurch too. They say while the stretch was beautified by spending crores of rupees, the situation has deteriorated. With the festival season approaching, every inch of the pedestrian way is getting occupied by pushcart vendors.

"Currently, there are over a 100 street vendors on the stretch covering almost the entire footpath meant for pedestrians. Although over Rs 55 crore was spent in renovating the stretch, it is money down the drain," said Guru Prasad, a resident of the area and secretary of the Heritage Basavanagudi Residents' Welfare Forum.

Long walk

Locals say more than 65 BMTC buses used to frequent Gandhi Bazaar Main Road before renovation began. Currently, a person using public transport has to walk nearly one kilometre to reach the main road.

"The market area, which should have housed vendors, has been made into a complex. There is no space for street vendors in the market and thus they have occupied the pedestrian walkway. At some spots, the walk path is completely encroached.

We have approached BBMP on multiple occasions, but no action is being taken," said another resident.

RTI application spills beans on MLCs' medical bills

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

government employees claim money towards medical bills. I am at a loss to understand why the media is not able to recognise our service to society," said Shetty.

MLC TA Saravana, a businessman who declared assets worth Rs 19,94,16,221 and liabilities Rs 80,63,000 in an affidavit while filing the nomination papers for MLC election, has claimed money twice independently (Rs 1,94,770 and Rs 20,000) and along with Suja Kushalappa and Raghunath Rao Malkapure (Rs 12,222) for availing of treatment at the Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research between May 2023 and August 2024.

When contacted over the phone, MLC Saravana's PA answered the call and confirmed that the MLC was claiming medical reimbursement.

"Our MLC sir fell ill during election canvassing and got admitted to Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research. It is our MLC sir's privilege to claim the medical reimbursement," the PA said.

MLC CP Yogeshwar was not available for comment.

Meanwhile, social activists said that MLCs with deep pockets can afford to forgo medical reimbursement. "I am not against MLCs claiming medical reimbursement but I want the State Government to extend similar facilities for common man.

There is a limit for common man to avail of financial assistance from the Chief Minister's Office during medical emergencies.

There is no limit for MLCs to avail of medical reimbursement. One MLC has claimed medical reimbursement of Rs 48 lakh and another claimed Rs 39 lakh in just 15 months. I expect some of the MLCs who claimed medical reimbursement to refund it to the government for the benefit of the common man," said HM Venkatesh, who got the data on medical reimbursement through an RTI application.

Expressing a similar opinion, Narasimha Murthy Kunigal, a social activist, said that MLCs and MLAs declare assets worth crores of rupees.

"I am of the opinion that these elected representatives can afford to pay medical bills on their own instead of claiming medical reimbursement from the state government which is yet to clear dues to private hospitals that provide treatment to the poor under various health schemes," said Murthy.

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I D Kumar Vellu son of Dharman have change my name to Vidya Ananda Kumara wide affidavit dt: 10/7/2024 sworn before notary Deepa. M. B lore.

I, LAKSHMI SRUJITHA SAMPATHIRAO (Old Name) W/o Ravi Kiran Sampath Rao R/at SYN Lavender No.G1, 1st Main, Anjappa Layout, Mahadevapura, Bengaluru-560048 have changed my name to LAKSHMI SRUJITHA MAJJI (New Name) vide affidavit dated: 23/8/2024 Before Notary K.V.Mani Bangalore.

I, RAMAKANT S/o Prem Chand Agarwal R/o S-5, No.16, Windsar Ambika Apt, 9th cross,Kamakya layout,Bana - shankari 3rd stage, Bengaluru 560085 have changed my name to RAMAKANT AGARWAL, Affidavit Dt.27/08/ 2024 notary Harisha G, Bengaluru

I, Ponnammal D w/o T Durai Swamy R/o #851, 30th cross, L R Nagar, Koramangala 1st stage, Viveknagar post, bangalore 560047 have changed my name as THULASI

I, MOHAMMED IQBAL ANSARI, R/a No.166.10th Cross Neharu Rd Manjunatha Nagar Bangalore-26. I, have changed my name to MOHAMMED IQBAL HAJI, Vide affidavit dated 26/08/2024 Sworn before Notary MK Devaki Bangalore

I, Vinal Hemandar Balar D/o Hemandar Dhanrajji Balar R/o Govind castle, Govindappa road, Gandhi bazaar, Bengaluru 560004 have changed my name to Vinal Balar Affidavit Dt.27/08/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, ZAKIR ZAMAL, R/a No.31/1,Old 6th Cross, New 4th Main Pipeline Manjunathnagar Hosaguddahalli Bangalore-26. I, have changed my name to ZAKIR JAMAL Vide affidavit dated 26/08/2024 Sworn before Notary MK Devaki Bangalore

I Shilpa W/O, Abhijith Mehta R/o No 6/3 Mehta House 9th Cross Laxmi Road Shanthi Nagar Bengaluru - 560027 have changed my name to Shilpa Abhijith Mehta.

I Vipul D S/o Dharmichand, Residing At No.365, Bogadi, Kasaba Hobli, Mysore-570026 have changed my name to Sumith Kumar D

I Mohammed Shawor Ruknuddin S/o Ibrahim Khaleel Ruknuddin R/o Bab-e-Khaleel, Good Luck Road, Kargadde, Bhatkal, Uttara Kannada, Karnataka-581320 have changed my name to Mohammed Shaoor Ruknuddin, vide notary affidavit dated 20-08-2024 sworn before S R Ravikumar, Bengaluru

LOST & FOUND

I, Ajay Peesapati , S/o Late P Vijaya Gopal R/o #1106 Brigades Millennium JP Nagar 7th Phase Bangalore - 50078, Karnataka have lost my Sale agreement and construction agreement executed on 12-11-2007 by M/s Concord housing corporation Pvt Ltd. Lost Report No. 1194466/2024 dates 15-08-2024

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BANGKOK PATTAYA 5 DAYS: Oct: 1, 23, Nov: 24
DUBAI 5 DAYS: Sept: 24, Oct: 25, Nov: 17, Dec: 5
BHUTAN 8 DAYS: Sept: 20, Oct: 21, Nov: 21
SRILANKA 7 DAYS: Sept: 18, Oct: 15, Nov: 12
NEPAL WITH MUKTINATH 8 DAYS
Sept: 10, Oct: 15, Nov: 12
EGYPT 9 DAYS: Nov: 6
VIETNAM CAMBODIA 10 DAYS: Nov: 15

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Misleading ads: SC stays Ayush Ministry's notification

Apex court questions Ministry's decision to omit rule 170 of Drugs and Cosmetic Rules, 1945

The Supreme Court on Tuesday stayed a notification issued by the Ministry of Ayush, which omitted rule 170 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 that prohibits misleading advertisements of Ayurvedic, Siddha, and Unani drugs.

A bench of Justices Hima Kohli and Sandeep Mehta said the notification issued by the ministry was in the teeth of its May 7, 2024 order.

Clamping down on misleading advertisements, the apex court on May 7, 2024 had directed that before an advertisement is permitted to be issued, a self-declaration be obtained from the advertisers on the line of the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994.

"Instead of withdrawing the letter dated August 29, 2023, for reasons best known to the ministry, the notification dated July 1 to omit Rule 170 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945, has been issued which runs contrary to directions issued by this court...

"Till further orders, effect of the notification dated omitting shall stand stayed," the bench said.

Additional Solicitor General K M Nataraj, appearing for the Centre, submitted that he will file an affidavit clarifying the position.

The Centre had earlier defended its August 2023, letter to states and Union territories asking authorities not to initiate action against any entity for violating Rule 170 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules.

"It is respectfully submitted that as the process of final gazette notification will take further time, in order to avoid confusion among the various State/UT SLAs (state licensing authorities) and to prevent avoidable litigations, Ministry of Ayush vide letter dated August 29, 2023 directed all state/UTs licensing authorities not to take any action under Rule 170 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 as the final notification is under process," the Centre had said in its affidavit.

The top court had in May questioned the Centre over an August 29, 2023 letter by the Ministry of Ayush asking the licensing authorities not to initiate or take any action under rule 170 of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945.

The bench had told Nataraj that the ministry shall "forthwith" withdraw the August 29 last year letter.

The apex court is hearing a plea filed in 2022 by the Indian Medical Association alleging a smear campaign by Patanjali and yoga guru Ramdev against the Covid vaccination drive and modern systems of medicine. —PTI

Chief, finance secretaries line up before Supreme Court

In a rare sight, chief secretaries and finance secretaries of 18 states and union territories (UT) appeared before the Supreme Court on Tuesday to apprise it of whether they have complied with the Second National Judicial Pay Commission's (SNJPC) recommendations on payment of salary, pension arrears and retirement benefits to judicial officers.

The top bureaucrats also sought exemption from personal appearance in future which was granted. The apex court was hearing a plea of the All India Judges Association (AIJA) on implementation of welfare and other measures for former judges and judicial officers. "We have no pleasure in calling the chief and finance secretaries of the states, but consistently the counsels of states have been absent during the hearings," a bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra said when senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing for West Bengal, spoke about the state's compliance with the SC directions. In a spectacle of sorts, the chief secretaries and finance secretaries of Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Assam, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Himachal Pradesh, J&K, Ladakh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Bihar, Goa, Haryana and Odisha appeared in the CJI's courtroom and were seen assisting their lawyers.

UPS: 31,230 SW Railway staffers to benefit

The Union Cabinet approved the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) on August 24, guaranteeing government employees 50 percent of their average basic pay from the last 12 months before retirement. This decision aims to enhance the pension benefits for government employees, ensuring greater financial security post-retirement. In the Bengaluru Division, a total of 10,286 employees stand to benefit from the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS), including 10,215 non-gazetted employees and 71 gazetted employees.

The newly approved UPS is expected to benefit approximately 31,230 South Western Railway employees, accounting for 80% of those currently under the National Pension System (NPS). Additionally, 7,712 employees presently covered by the Old Pension Scheme will have the option to switch to the new UPS. Under UPS, employees with at least 25 years of service will receive a guaranteed pension equal to 50 percent of their average basic pay from the last 12 months before retirement, while those with less service will receive a proportional pension, provided they have at least 10 years of service. In the event of an employee's death, their spouse will receive a family pension amounting to 60 percent of the employee's pension.

Under UPS, staff with at least 25 years of service will get guaranteed pension equal to 50% of their average basic pay from last 12 months

Additionally, employees with a minimum of 10 years of service will be entitled to a pension of 10,000 per month on retirement. Both the assured pension and family pension will be adjusted for inflation, ensuring they keep pace with rising prices. Retirees will also receive Dearness Relief based on the All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (AICPI-IW). —BMB

EPFO discusses higher pension, other demands

A delegation of pensioners' body EPS-95 National Agitation Committee on Tuesday met with senior officials of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation to press for their long-standing demand for a minimum monthly pension of Rs 7,500.

The members also demanded full medical coverage for EPS members and their spouses, EPS-95 National Agitation Committee (NAC) said in a statement.

"An invitation came to us from the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) for a meeting. The objective of the meeting was to resolve the pending demands of the pensioners," EPS-95 NAC President Ashok Raut said.

The EPS-95 NAC members have been protesting to press for their demand of Rs 7,500 as monthly pension instead of an average monthly pension of only Rs 1,450 at present, he said. Raut said the pensioners have been demanding an increase in the minimum pension for the past eight years, but the government has not addressed their demands.

Earlier this month, Union Minister for Labour Mansukh Mandaviya had met with EPS-95 NAC representatives and assured them the government would take steps to address their demand. —PTI

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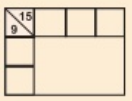
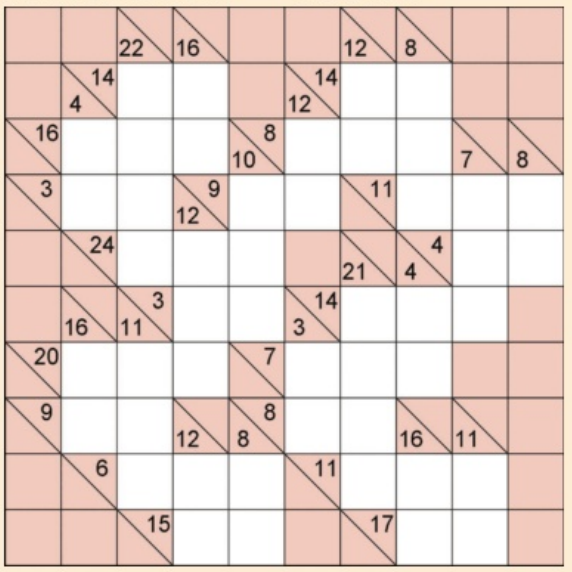
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

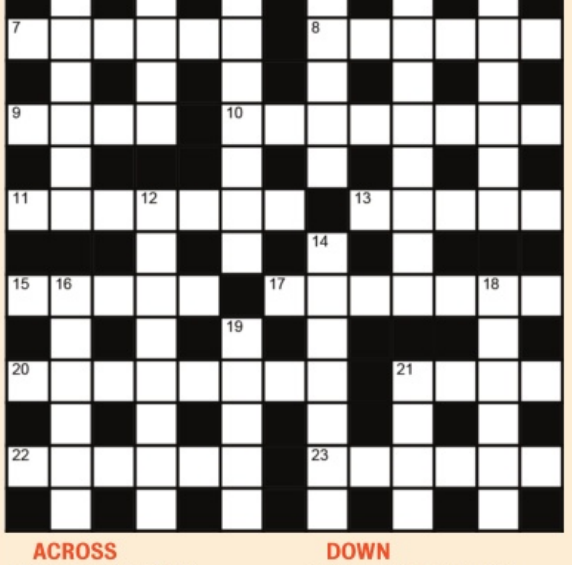


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Tree-lined road (6)
8 Praised (6)
9 Attracted (4)
10 Keeping off or turning aside (8)
11 Provided or used less than was needed? (7)
13 Unrefined (5)
15 Shaping machine (5)
17 Breathing spell (7)
20 Say it to be polite and appreciative? (5,3)
21 Pull or lug with hand (4)
22 Head nurse (6)
23 Capital of Manipur (6)

DOWN

1 New World Symphony composer (6)
2 Masticate (4)
3 Changed the title (7)
4 Suck dry (5)
5 Flatter or praise rather falsely? (6,2)
6 Checked (6)
12 M in M S Dhoni (8)
14 Yehudi ___ : the famous violinist ? (7)
16 Hindu hermitage (6)
18 Venetian artist (6)
19 __ __ large : generally speaking? (2,3)
21 You will find the remnants of his fort in the City Market area (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: N EQUALS U

XRN FWK GUAH OR VH W JNKLPHL UB XRN QUAH NM WGG OJH OJUKQT OJWO YWEH XRN IWKO OR GUAH OR VH W JNKLPHL.

Linemaro

Are you full of Beryllium, Gold and Titanium? Because you are Be, au, ti...full

Mindchow

The most painful goodbyes are those never said and never explained

Joke of the day

Bakers trade recipes on a knead to know basis

Loop

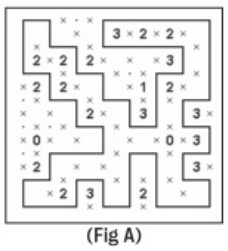
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

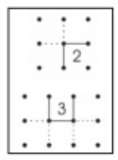
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

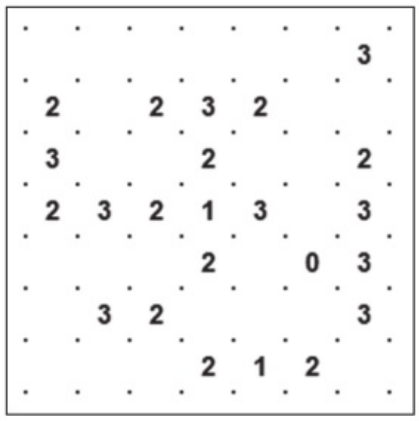
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



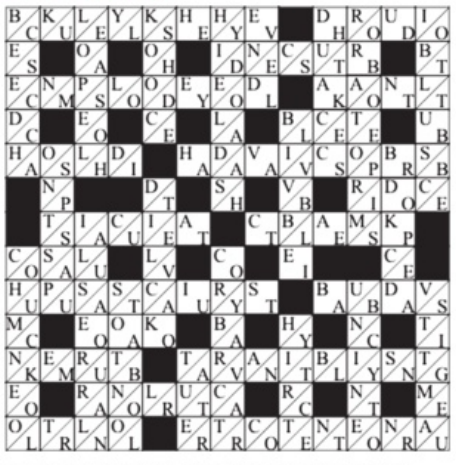
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5 Y
6				
7				
8				
9				

ACROSS

1 TY kit; 6 Nu Awe; 7 Seals; 8 Ranet; 9 Peeks

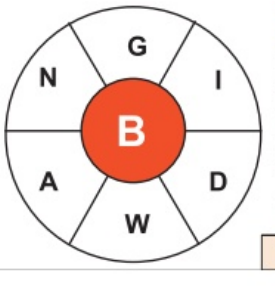
DOWN

1 KL Auk; 2 A nine; 3 Tates; 4 Wet PR; 5 Essey

Mensapuzzle

Which number is needed to finish this puzzle?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

03 Average; 04 Good; 05 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

1		7				2		8
3								5
			5	7	6			
5	8		1		4		3	2
				8				
4	9		7		2		5	6
			8	6	3			
2								3
6		5				1		4

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 3

1 4 6 8

Medium = 13

3 3 6 7

Hard = 18

3 6 9 5

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

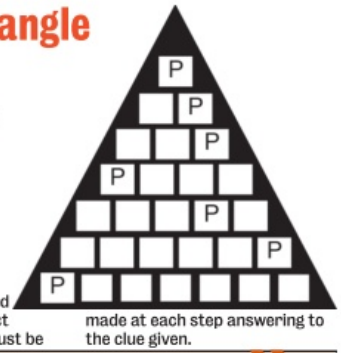
Differences: 1. Book is missing. 2. Bricks are lower. 3. Leg is moved. 4. Hand is showing. 5. Window is smaller. 6. Walkway is not as wide.

Riddler

What connects these four things?
frame jamb hinge & lock

Alpha triangle

1 Sixteenth letter
2 ___in the air
3 Trophy
4 Brownish purple
5 Two-door car
6 Recover
7 Create, make

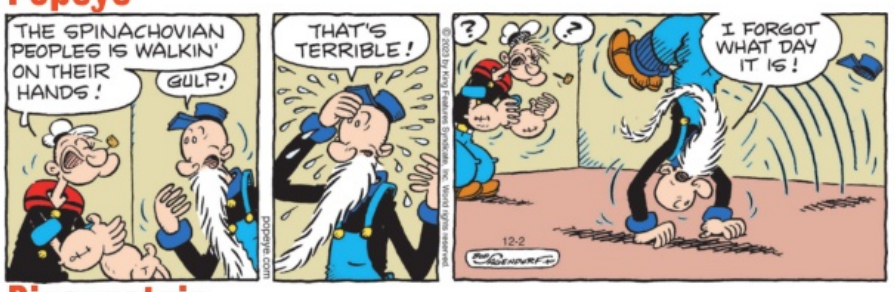


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

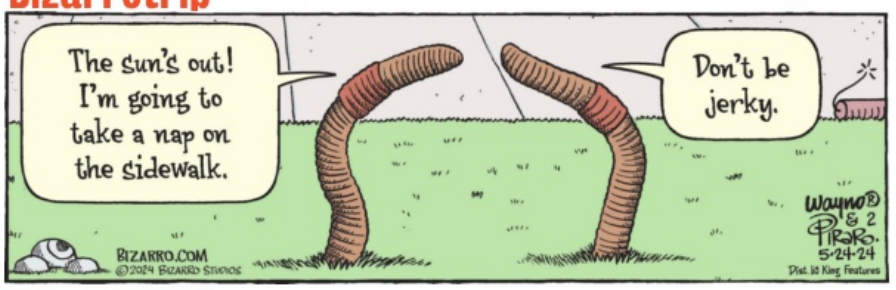
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye

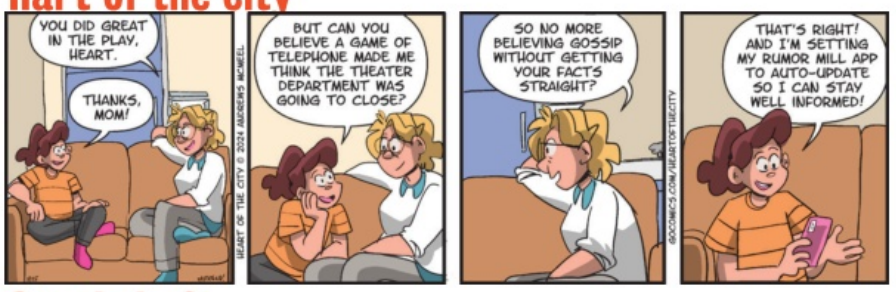


Bizarrotrip

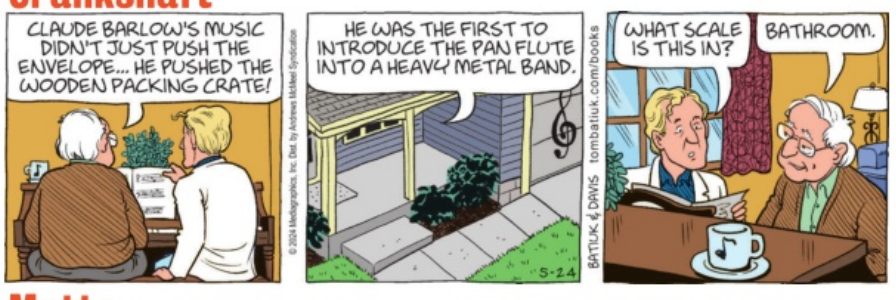


Diamond Lil

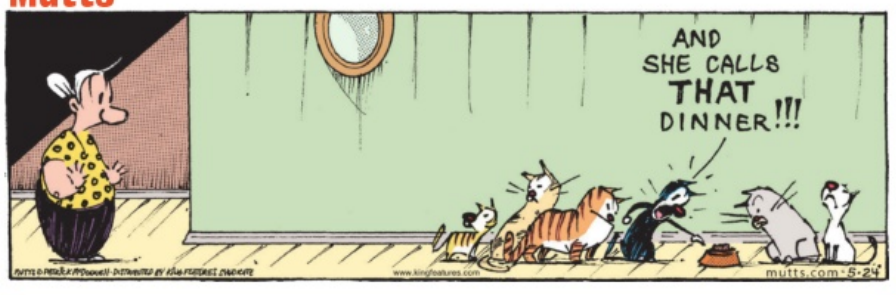
Hart of the city



Crankshaft



Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today you may feel dull, you may be a victim of hidden fear. You are not in a situation to trust anyone. It is advised to do meditation and chant some prayers, which may help you come out of this hypothetical situation. With the help of an elder's blessings around late evening, you may come out of this messy situation.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today you may be happy. You may spread happiness around you, you may feel harmony in the domestic life and you may enjoy some romantic moments the spouse. Your family may support you to take some important decisions on the professional front. You may expect some new ventures or partnerships in the business or work.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today's positive moon may make you happy. You may use your patience at every stage. Your performance may be good at your job, and you may get some incentives in terms of rewards. Health related issues of family members will be resolved now. Job seekers are likely to get a suitable job in their domain. Love birds may enjoy their dating.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today you may have mixed situations around you. It is advised to not expect more from anyone around you, it may disappoint you. Today you may do self exploration and self analysis. After the filtration process, you may feel confident and be able to prepare for challenges.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may plan for a change in place, it is advised to postpone the decision related to migration. It is also advised to avoid investment in business. By the late evening, the situation may be under control. With the help of good advice from one of the elders, you may control the messy situation.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you may expect some short business trips. You may also expect to get some rewards for your success in your domain. Your respect around you may increase. You may hear some good news from siblings. Job seekers, who are seeking management job, may get success. Singles are likely to get engaged.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today is a good day. You are blessed by Jupiter, your wisdom may help you come out from difficult situations. You may help needy people. You may also give your opinion to your family or friends, which may increase your prestige among them. You may have some difference of opinions with your spouse, which may affect your domestic life.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today you may be a victim of mood swings. You may feel dull, your health is not good. It affects your day to day routine. You are advised to avoid rash driving and adventure tours. Today you may also spend on worthless things, which may affect your financial health.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you may have detachment with the responsibilities you have been given. You may also spend more in purchasing worthless stuffs, which may increase negativity in the house or office. You are advised to keep an eye on your opponents and rivals, otherwise you may be victim of conspiracy. It is advised to read documents carefully before putting your signature.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today blessing from elders' may make you happy. Your investments may give you profits. Losses are converted into profits now. Your savings may boost your bank balance. You may plan to invest for the kid's future also. You may also enjoy some delicious food at home. Your problems related to throat, teeth, ear or nose may be resolved now.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today you are blessed by elders. Your patience becomes very good, and your focus towards your work may be very good. Parent's health is now good. You are likely to spend some time with elders. You may also meet some influential person, who may help you on the professional front. You may also enjoy your romantic moments which may increase harmony in domestic life.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today you may be spiritual, you may help needy people around you. You may also plan to donate some amount to charity or religious places. Your good karma may help you get success in your difficult projects. You may feel some divine power around you, which may help you in unpredictable situations. You may be attracted by occult. Students are likely to enjoy studying in depth.

KIDZONE

Kartikeya Kumar, 8 Years, Vibgyor High School

Tarush, 10 Years, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
100(2+1/5)-100=
100(11/5)²-100=
100(121/25)-100=
4²121-100=
484-100=
384

BULL'S EYE
band, bang, bawd, blind, WINDBAG

FAST FIVE

K	I	T	T	Y
U	N	A	W	E
L	A	S	E	S
A	N	T	R	E
K	E	E	P	S

RIDDLER
They are all parts of a door

STRIKE OUT

O	R	N	O	■	E	T	C	E	T	E	R	A	■	■
C	■	E	■	E	L	■	B	E	T	■	U	■	■	■
H	O	L	D	■	A	D	V	I	S	O	R	S	■	■
E	■	A	■	H	■	N	■	C	U	R	■	B	■	■
E	M	P	L	O	Y	E	D	■	K	A	N	T	■	■
T	A	C	I	T	■	C	L	A	S	P	■	■	■	■
■	N	■	T	■	S	■	B	■	R	O	D	E	■	■
C	A	L	L	■	C	■	E	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
U	P	S	T	A	I	R	S	■	B	U	D	S	■	■
C	■	O	A	K	■	A	■	H	■	N	■	I	■	■
K	E	R	B	■	A	V	A	I	L	I	N	G	■	■
O	■	A	■	O	■	R	■	T	■	M	■	■	■	■
T	H	A	N	K	Y	O	U	■	T	O	T	E	■	■
■	■	I	■	S	■	B	■	N	■	I	■	■	■	■
L	A	T	H	E	■	R	E	S	P	I	T	E	■	■
■	■	A	■	D	■	M	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
S	K	I	M	P	E	D	■	C	R	U	D	E	■	■
■	■	A	■	M	■	E	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
D	R	E	W	■	A	V	E	R	T	I	N	G	■	■
M	■	A	■	O	■	N	■	E	■	T	■	I	■	■
A	V	E	N	U	E	■	L	A	U	D	E	D	■	■
D	G	R	■	B	■	B	■	■	R	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

QUICK

■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
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■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE
12. Starting from the top, subtract 2 then add 7 and continue this sequence.

QUOTE UNCODE
You can live to be a hundred if you give up all the things that make you want to live to be a hundred.

SUDOKU

6	3	5	7	2	9	1	8	4
2	7	8	4	5	1	6	9	3
9	1	4	8	6	3	5	2	7
4	9	1	7	3	2	8	5	6
7	2	3	6	8	5	9	4	1
5	8	6	1	9	4	7	3	2
8	4	2	5	7	6	3	1	9
3	6	9	2	1	8	4	7	5
1	5	7	3	4	9	2	6	8

ALPHA TRIANGLE
P, Up, Cup, Pupe, Coupe, Recoup, Procduce.

GO FIGURE
Easy
4 – 8 + 6 + 1 = 3
Medium
3 + 6 + 7 – 3 = 13
Hard
3 x 5 – 6 + 9 = 18

LOOP

KAKURO

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Kate in 'The Spot' — Kate Winslet is set to collaborate with streaming service Hulu for her new series project. Titled 'The Spot', the show comes from Ed Solomon, known for writing 'Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure', 'Men in Black', 'Charlie's Angels' and other hits

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

A movie on farmers

Director PC Shekhar has announced a movie with Vijaya Raghavendra in the lead. The yet-to-be-titled movie about farmers will be bankrolled by Prakash Siddappa under the Akash Pictures banner. The movie is expected to go on floors shortly.

Siddappa said that subjects related to farmers are close to his heart. "Shekhar is a past pupil of Alliance University and he is directing the maiden movie bankrolled under the Akash Pictures banner in collaboration with Alliance University's Filmmaking Course. Some of the past pupils of Alliance University have joined hands with me," said Siddappa.

Shekhar said he was happy to be part of a project that is providing giving a chance to the students of Alliance School of Film and Media Studies. "I thank Siddappa for giving me this opportunity. The movie will be shot in rural areas. It will showcase farmers' contribution to society. I wrote the script keeping Vijaya Raghavendra in mind," said Shekhar.

Vijaya Raghavendra said he was very happy when the director narrated the script. "It is my maiden movie with Shekhar," said Raghavendra.

Ready for debate

Director Sanjotha Bhandari, who debuted in Sandalwood with Mirchi Mandaki Chai around 10 years ago, never expected her second movie Langoti Man to become the talk of the town for the wrong reasons. Sanjotha said that some people have objected to the title and demanded that she change it as it causes embarrassment to them.

"Some people claiming to represent the Brahmin community demanded that I change the title of the movie. They claimed that the title of the movie is making fun of the Brahmin community. I told them that the movie is not aimed at a particular community. It is about a piece of cloth worn by many people of different communities including farmers and fishermen," said Sanjotha.

The director said that she would welcome feedback and good suggestions from the public. "I got a phone call from Akhila Karnataka Brahmana Mahasabha president Ashok Harnahalli. He asked me about the title of the movie. I explained to him that the movie is not against any community," the director said.

The director said she submitted a letter to the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce that the movie is not aimed to embarrass any community in society.

The movie features Akash Rambo, Sneha Kushi, Dheerendra, Mahalakshmi, Huli Karthik, Sahmita Vinya, Gilli Nata, Pawan and Auto Nagaraj.

The movie's teaser was unveiled by Sandalwood actor Sharan at a private hotel in Sadashivanagar recently.

She keeps her culture close

Ismael Cruz Cordova has this to say about Priyanka...

Priyanka Chopra is one of the most famous celebrities in the world. With over 60 film credits to her name back in Bollywood, appearances in more than five international projects and her active involvement in philanthropy, the 42-year-old has become an inspiration for many people across the globe, including her colleagues.

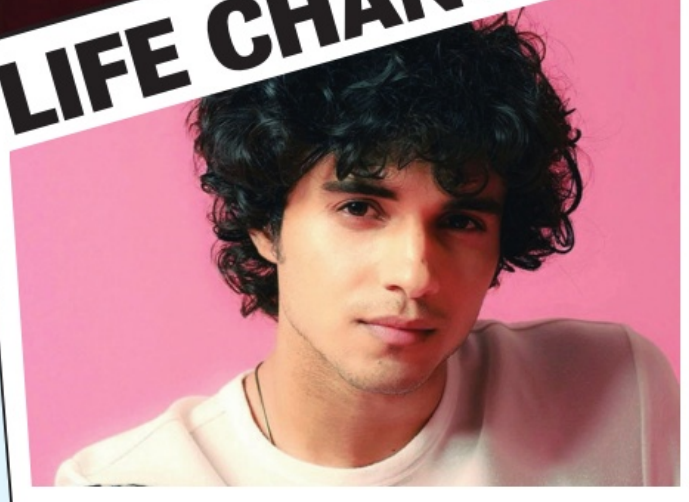
In an interview with ANI in Singapore, 'The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power' actor Ismael Cruz Cordova shared that he is a huge fan of Priyanka Chopra. He also opened up about his experience working with her in the upcoming film 'The Bluff'.

"Working with the greats is always something that you never know how it's going to be. Priyanka is an incredible leader..so generous. She's so cool also. I am a huge fan. She is such a great leader. So charismatic, so loving. She made everybody on set feel great. She keeps her culture so close to her. Her mother and daughter were also on set with us, the whole family dynamics, it really grounds you," he said.

There was a big smile on his face as he recalled his fond memories spent with Bollywood's desi girl on the shooting set. "Everybody's looking up to her because she's leading in the greatest of ways. It was a dream come true. I can't wait to work with her again," Ismael added.

Meanwhile, Ismael is gearing up for the release of the second season of 'The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power', which will be out on Prime Video on August 29. Expressing excitement, he shared, "It's such an immersive experience to be in the show. I can't wait for the the new season to come out. LOTR is such a big part of our lives..." —**ANI**

LIFE CHANGER



Abhay Verma gained recognition and became a known face in the entertainment industry after the success of his film 'Munjya'. Recently, in celebration of International Dog Day on August 26, the actor opened up on how owning a pet has profoundly impacted his life.

During his conversation with Mid Day, Abhay Verma shared that Joey's (pet dog) joyful welcome when he returns from a shoot instantly lifts his spirits, and he always makes sure to greet Joey with equal enthusiasm.

Abhay found it incredible how much satisfaction his pet brings him, admitting that he loves to spoil Joey. He also noted that adopting a pet naturally turns one into a parent, a joy he feels is truly boundless.

Abhay Verma gained recognition after his debut as a lead actor in the horror-comedy Munjya alongside Sharvari Wagh. The film was directed by Aditya Sarpotdar.

Abhay noted that his character underwent significant changes during the casting process. Originally, the role was intended to be a female character, first set to be played by Alia Bhatt and then by Shraddha Kapoor. After several years of changes, Abhay remarked that he became the only hero to have replaced heroines in the role.

Following the success of 'Munjya', Abhay is rumoured to have been cast in Shah Rukh Khan's highly anticipated project, King. —**ETimes**

Not just dolls

When she was approached for "Thangalaan", actor Malavika Mohanan says she knew little about the story but what got her on board was Pa Ranjith's credibility as a director who writes strong roles for women.

Playing Aarathi, a fiery and gifted woman who comes to blows with Vikram's Thangalaan in the Tamil period drama, was one such opportunity for the actor who wanted to "break out" of portraying one-note characters. 'Thangalaan' is set in the backdrop of Kolar Gold Fields (KGF) of Karnataka and based on real-life incidents in the 18th and 19th centuries.

"Initially, when they approached me for the film, I knew about the project, and not really about the story and script, I knew that it was a Pa Ranjith and Vikram film. I was well aware of the fact that he is one of the filmmakers who writes strong roles for women. He is such a prolific filmmaker. As women, we are also seeking those few makers who don't place us just as dolls in scenes, I've done a few of those films in the recent past. I wanted to break out of this clutter and work with makers who do the opposite of that," Malavika said. — **PTI**